

From: John Bork
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 8:38am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom it May Concern:

Pursuant to the Tunney Act, I am writing to comment on the proposed settlement of the United States vs. Microsoft antitrust case.

Background:

I am resident of the State of Ohio and a professional computer programmer who works in both Microsoft and non-Microsoft environments. I have been using microcomputers for over 20 years, and have witnessed Microsoft monopolize the PC world. Lately, however, there seems to be a glimmer of hope in the proliferation of the Linux operating system, which indeed Microsoft has recognized as its greatest potential threat.

Specific Failing in the Proposed Settlement:

The Proposed Settlement does not recognize the unique contribution of the Linux operating system and the so-called "open source movement" to regenerating a competitive market in the PC software business. I executed a search on the Revised Proposed Final Judgment and found no mention of Linux.

As for details, I defer to more competent analysts such as Jeremy P. White, CEO of Codeweavers, Inc., and Dan Kegel, who have already submitted comments.

Closing Comments

It is obvious that in the years that this case has progressed, Microsoft has taken steps to further integrate the functionality of its Internet browser into the underlying operating system. The ".NET Framework" Microsoft is now promoting will further extend the reach of their monopoly. Without an immanent settlement or other legal relief, the advance of Microsoft as the default software provider in the PC world only grows stronger. Eventually, there will be no relief possible. As an American and a professional computer programmer, I fear the loss of this freedom.

Sincerely,

John Robert Bork
Findlay, Ohio